

REMARKS

The present amendment is being made in order to correct an error in the specification that should have been noticed by the Patent and Trademark Office during initial processing, but which was inadvertently overlooked by both the Patent and Trademark Office and the undersigned firm of attorneys until very recently. It has now come to our attention, in the course of prosecution of the corresponding European application, that the specification refers to eight figures of drawings, but no drawings are of record in the file. This lack of correspondence between the specification and the application as filed begs to be corrected. Fortunately, the error can be corrected by simple amendments to the specification without raising new issue matters and without requiring any additional search or substantial examination.

The present specification states in the first paragraph on page 10 that Figures 1-5 are the same figures as in the prior art. Specifically, those figures referred to in the present specification as Figures 1, 4 and 5 are identical to Figures 1, 2 and 3 of U.S. patent 5,858,964 (of record in this case as Document AC in the IDS of October 8, 2002). Furthermore, the figures identified in the present specification as Figures 2 and 3 are identical to Figures 1 and 3, respectively, of the Schlegel et al (1996) publication (of record in this case as Document AM in the IDS of October

8, 2002) and listed in the present specification. Thus, the brief description of Figures 1-5 can simply be deleted from the specification and all references in the rest of the specification to Figures 1-5 can be changed to be references to the corresponding figures of the U.S. patent no. 5,858,964 and Schlegel et al. (1996).

With respect to Figures 6-8, all of the data illustrated in these figures also appear in the tables, which are of record in the present specification. Thus, the figures are merely redundant and need not be referred to or included in the patent; it is sufficient to simply rely on the tables.

Accordingly, the "Brief Description of the Drawings" section of the specification is simply deleted by the present amendment. All references to Figures 1-5 in the specification are changed to refer to the corresponding figures of the prior art, and all references to Figures 6-8 have simply been deleted as the missing figures are merely redundant with the tables that are always referred to whenever Figures 6-8 were referred to in the specification.

The present amendments are needed for proper disclosure so as to avoid confusion, which would occur if the specification referred to drawings that were not included in the patent. Fortunately, because the specification clearly states that Figures 1-5 are the same as those in two prior art publications and the graphs of Figures 6-8 are merely a graphical representation of the data in the tables that otherwise appear in the specification, no substantial amount

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Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312

of additional work on the part of the Office is necessary in order to consider and approve this amendment. This amendment to the specification does not affect the scope or content of the claims in any way.

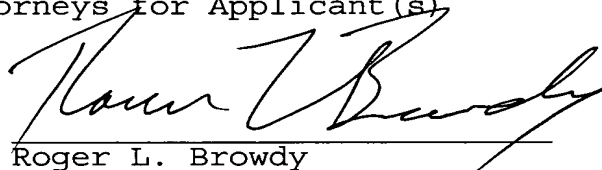
Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment and recommendation by the primary examiner for entry after allowance in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.312 and MPEP §714.16 are earnestly solicited.

The issue fee is paid separately herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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